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# INSIDE TODAY

# WORLD NEWS

# GRAVE ROBBED

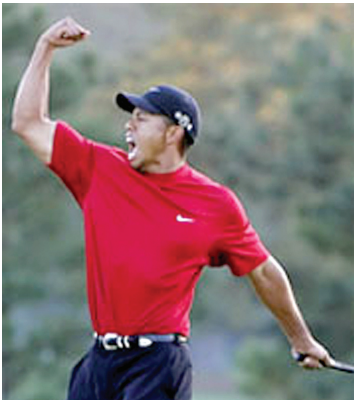


This Sept. 5, 2007 file photo shows former Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos in Nicosia, Cyprus. Grave robbers unearthed the remains of former Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos and stole his body by night from a suburban graveyard, Cyprus police said Friday Dec. 11, 2009 a day before the first anniversary of the statesman's death.

Read more on Page A8

# SPORTS NEWS

# TIGER HIATUS



This April 10, 2005, file photo shows Tiger Woods reacting to winning the 2005 Masters in a playoff with Chris DiMarco, on the 18th hole during final round play at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga.

Read more on Page A13

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A Christmas tree lights up Wall Street in front of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 in New York.

# Stiffer rules for Wall Street pass in House

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives passed the most ambitious restructuring of U.S. financial

regulations since the 1930s on Friday, aiming to head off any replay of last year's Wall Street failures that plunged the U.S. deep into recession.

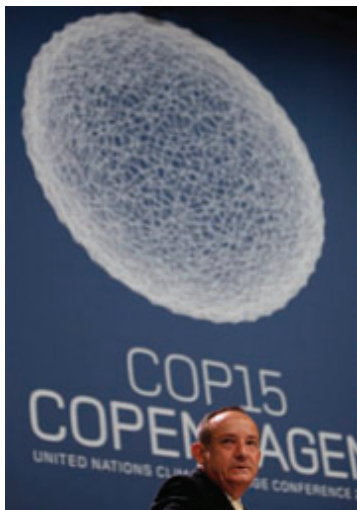
The sprawling legislation

would give the government new powers to break up companies that threaten the economy, create a new agency to oversee consumer banking transactions and shine a light into shadow financial markets that have escaped the oversight of regulators.

The vote was a party-line 223-202. No Republicans voted for the bill; 27 Democrats voted against it. While a victory for the administration, the legislation dilutes some of President Barack Obama's recommendations, carving out exceptions to some of its toughest provision. The burden now shifts to the Senate, which is not expected to act on its version of a regulatory overhaul until early next year.

Continued on Page 4

# Tough bargaining still ahead at U.N. climate talks



UN Climate Chief Yvo de Boer prior to a plenary session at the UN Climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009. Negotiators are working in Brussels and Copenhagen to come up with more climate change money for poor countries amid talks on a historic deal to control the world's greenhouse gases.

Associated Press

ARTHUR MAX  
JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writers

COPENHAGEN (AP) — After a week of U.N. climate talks, some money is finally on the table and a draft agreement has been circulated. Now the really hard bargaining begins. The draft proposal was sent around Friday to the 192-nation conference, although it set no firm figures on financing or cutting greenhouse gas emissions. And the negotiations on sharing the burden are likely to still go down to the wire and await the arrival of the world's leaders next week. To top it off, the United States and China — the world's top two carbon polluters — even got into a battle of words.

Continued on Page 7



In a Friday, June 26, 2009 photo, Jenny Sanford, wife of South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, speaks about her husband's recent affair admission in Sullivans Island, S.C. South Carolina's first lady has filed for divorce months after her husband publicly confessed an affair with an Argentine woman.

Associated Press

# S.C. gov's wife files for divorce after his affair

BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press Writer


CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford may be keeping his office after his affair with an Argentine woman was revealed, but he is losing his marriage.

First lady Jenny Sanford capped a tumultuous week by filing for divorce Friday, two days after state lawmakers stopped short of recommending her husband's removal for a top-secret June rendezvous with his Argentine mistress.

Continued on Page 5



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# Justice Dept. says 'no' to Jack Johnson pardon bid



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., talks to the media after the Senate Democratic caucus is meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009. The Senate is meeting in a rare Sunday session.

*Associated Press*

**FREDERIC J. FROMMER**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department is refusing to grant a posthumous pardon to Jack Johnson, the black heavyweight boxing champion who was imprisoned nearly a century ago because of his romantic ties with a white woman.

In a letter obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, the department's pardon attorney, Ronald L. Rodgers, told Rep. Peter King that the Justice Department's general policy is not to process posthumous pardon requests. In cases like Johnson's, given the time that has passed and the historical record that would need to be

scoured, the department's resources for pardon requests are best used on behalf of people "who can truly benefit" from them, Rodgers wrote.

The letter was in response to one that King, a Republican, and Republican Sen. John McCain had sent to President Barack Obama in October urging a pardon. In that letter, the two lawmakers noted that both houses of Congress have passed a resolution urging a presidential pardon and said they hoped the president would be eager to "right this wrong and erase an act of racism that sent an American citizen to prison."

Rodgers wrote that notwithstanding the department policy, Obama still has the authority to pardon whomever he wishes, "guided when he sees fit by the advice of the pardon attorney."

He also cited two cases of posthumous pardons: President Bill Clinton's

1999 pardon of Lt. Henry O. Flipper, the Army's first black commissioned officer, who was drummed out of the military in 1882 after white officers accused him of embezzling \$3,800 in commissary funds; and President George W. Bush's 2008 pardon of Charles Winters, who was convicted of violating the Neutrality Act when he conspired in 1948 to export aircraft to a foreign country in aid of Israel.

In Winters' case, Rodgers said, the pardon request was not processed by Justice's Office of the Pardon Attorney, due to the department's posthumous pardon policy.

King said in a telephone interview that he and McCain probably will continue to urge Obama to issue the pardon.

"What they're doing here is bucking it back to President Obama," King said. "So I would respectfully urge him to grant the pardon. This is the president's call."

The White House had no immediate comment whether Obama would consider the request.

When he disclosed the resolution in April, McCain said he was sure that Obama "will be more than eager" to issue the pardon.

A hundred years before Obama was elected the nation's first black president, Johnson, a native of Galveston, Texas, became the first black heavyweight champion, on Dec. 26, 1908, after police in Australia stopped his 14-round match against the severely battered Canadian world champion, Tommy Burns.

That victory led to a search for a "Great White Hope" who could beat Johnson. Two years later, Jim Jeffries, the American world titleholder Johnson had tried for years to fight, came out of retirement but lost in a match called "The Battle of the Century," resulting in deadly riots. □



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# AP sources: FBI questions students, eyes charges

DEVLIN BARRETT  
 LOLITA BALDOR

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI agents have questioned some of the young Americans arrested in Pakistan as U.S. investigators gather evidence that could lead to a conspiracy charge against them, an American official and another person familiar with the case said Friday.

Agents are working to see if enough evidence exists to charge any of the five Muslim students with conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization, the two people said.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Officials in both countries expect the five, who are from the Washington, D.C., area, to be deported back home. Pakistan may hold them long enough for U.S. prosecutors to prepare charges, and there was no immediate indication how long that might take.

While Pakistani officials have said the men admitted trying to connect with militant groups, an FBI note sent to American lawmakers Thursday said the bureau had “no information linking them to terrorist organizations.” That FBI note did not deal with whether the students had attempted to join a terror group.

The other possible charge — and one that could be more difficult to bring — would be conspiracy to maim or kill people overseas.

“If they had reached an agreement amongst themselves and were pursuing an opportunity to train or fight with what they knew to be a foreign terrorist organization, then that would be a crime,” said Pat Rowan, former head of the Justice Department’s national security division.



In this five-combo photo released by Sargodha Police Department on Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, arrested American Muslims, from left, Waqir Hussain Khan, Ramys Zamzam, Umar Farooq, Ahmad Abdulminni, Aman Hasan Yamer are seen in Sargodha, Pakistan. Pakistani police say five young American Muslims detained over alleged terrorist links are most likely to be deported.

Making that case would depend greatly on what the men say to FBI agents — and whether any evidence or incriminating statements gathered by Pakistani police would meet U.S. legal standards.

“Where one needs to be at least a little skeptical is that that will translate into the sort of evidence that can be used in an American courtroom,” said Rowan.

Statements made by Americans to police overseas can be used against them in a U.S. trial, as long as the statements were not coerced. Another crucial source of evidence could be the men’s computers, on which Pakistani police say they found maps of areas where terrorists operate.

Across the United States, there has been a flurry of cases against alleged homegrown terror threats, but so far the situation of the five young men who went to Pakistan is most similar to a case in Boston, where investigators say two young men repeatedly tried and failed to join terror groups overseas.

In that case, the men were rejected by both the Taliban and Lashkar e Tayyiba in Pakistan, according to prosecutors. They said later efforts to sign up with groups in Yemen and Iraq also failed. The charges against those two include conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists.

In both that case and the new one, the men apparently were

drawn to militant messages on the Internet.

On Friday, local Muslim leaders gathered at the mosque where the five young men worshipped in Alexandria, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington. The five participated in youth activities at the small mosque that operates out of a converted single-family home in a residential neighborhood.

Mahdi Bray, executive director of the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, accused militants of manipulating young men through online videos and writings.

“We are determined not to let religious extremists exploit the

vulnerability of the emotions of our children through slick, destructive propaganda,” Bray said.

Pakistan authorities say the five young men used the social networking site Facebook and the Internet video site YouTube to try to connect with extremist groups in Pakistan. When they arrived in Pakistan, they allegedly took that effort to the street.

They were reported missing by their families more than a week ago after one of them left behind a farewell video showing scenes of war and casualties and saying Muslims must be defended.

Pakistani police detained them

this week, along with the father of one of them, in Sargodha, a town in the eastern province of Punjab.

The case has fanned fears that Americans and other Westerners, especially those of Pakistani descent, are traveling to Pakistan to join up with al-Qaida and other militant groups. It comes in the aftermath of charges against a Chicago man of Pakistani origin who is accused of surveying targets for the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, India.

One of the men being held is identified as an Egyptian-American named Ramy Zamzam, a dental student at Howard University in Washington.

The others were identified as Waqar Hussain, Aman Yamer, Ahmad Minni, Umar Farooq and his father, Khalid Farooq. Investigators are still trying to establish what role if any the father played in the men’s alleged activities, officials said.

Pakistani officials have given various spellings of their names. □

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Children's Meetings Will Be Held Each Night As Well





U.S. Central Command commanding Gen. David Petraeus testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Afghanistan. *Associated Press*

## WALL STREET

*Continued from Front Page*

The president praised the House action Friday, and called on Congress to act swiftly to get the bill to the White House for his signature.

“The crisis from which we are still recovering was born not only of failure on Wall Street, but also in Washington,” Obama said. “We have a responsibility to learn from it and to put in place reforms that will promote sound investment, encourage real competition and innovation and prevent such a crisis from ever

happening again.”

The legislation would govern the simplest payday loan and the most complicated high-finance trades. In its breadth, the measure seeks to impose restrictions on every house of finance, from two-teller neighborhood thrifts to huge interconnected conglomerates.

Democratic leaders had to fend off a last-minute attempt to kill a proposed consumer agency, a central element of the legislation and one the features pushed by the White House. The agency would take over consumer protection powers from

current banking regulators, and big banks and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce vigorously opposed the idea.

Democrats said the broad legislation would help address problems that led to last year’s calamitous financial crisis. Republicans argued that it overreached and would institutionalize bailouts for the financial industry.

“Let’s put it to the American people: Do you prefer the Republican position of doing literally nothing to rein in these abuses or should we try to rein them in?” Rep. Barney Frank, who led the Democratic effort on the bill, asked moments before the final vote.

Republicans cast the regulatory bill as a burden to business and argued that it would continue to protect companies considered too big to fail. They offered an alternative that called for special bankruptcy proceedings to dismantle failing financial institutions. That alternative failed.

“This house has been on a

spending spree, a bailout spree and a regulatory spree that I could never have imagined in any of my prior 18 years here in Congress,” Republican Leader John Boehner said.

Consumer advocates cheered the survival of the consumer protection agency but said the overall legislation fell short, especially in the regulation of complex investment instruments known as derivatives.

The legislation aims to prevent manipulation and bring transparency to the \$600 trillion global derivatives market. But an amendment by New York Democrat Scott Murphy, adopted 304-124 Thursday night, created an exception for nonfinancial companies that use derivatives as a hedge against price, currency and interest rate changes rather than as a speculative investment. The amendment also provided an exception for businesses that are considered too small to be a risk to the financial system.

A Democratic effort to make more companies subject to

derivatives regulations and to abusive-trading rules failed.

When the Obama administration first proposed a package of regulations, it called for regulations of derivatives without any exceptions. But a potent lobbying coalition that included Boeing Co., Caterpillar Inc., General Electric Co., Coca-Cola and other big companies persuaded lawmakers to dilute the restrictions.

“It does fall well short of what the administration promised and what everybody assumed we would get,” said Barbara Roper, director of investor protection for the Consumer Federation of America. “It’s a weakness in the bill and a win for Wall Street. Hedge funds and others that are not bona fide hedgers of commercial risk will slip through this language.”

The bill would create a Financial Services Oversight Council made up of the Treasury secretary, the Federal Reserve chairman and heads of regulatory agencies to monitor the financial markets for potential threats to U.S. system.

It would identify firms and activities that should be subject to heightened standards, including requirements that they place more money in reserve. Companies would have to plan for their own demise, detailing how they would be dismantled if they failed. The government could dismantle even healthy firms if they were considered a grave risk to the economy.

The Federal Reserve, criticized for not spotting last year’s crisis, would lose power in the legislation. The measure would limit the Fed’s unilateral ability to inject large amounts of money into financial institutions. It also would take away the Federal Reserve’s consumer regulation authority and would subject it to a broad audit by Congress’ investigative arm. □



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**GOV'S WIFE**

*Continued from Front Page*

He will not say whether he is still in contact Maria Belen Chapur, the woman he famously called his "soul mate."

Jenny Sanford, a former Wall Street executive who helped launch her husband's political career, said Friday their 20-year marriage could not be repaired. The couple have four sons.

"This came after many unsuccessful efforts at reconciliation, yet I am still dedicated to keeping the process that lies ahead peaceful for our family," she said in a brief statement released as her divorce complaint was filed in family court.

Her husband, who a day earlier told reporters he still hoped they could reconcile, blamed himself for what he called "the moral failure that led us to this tragic point."

Jenny Sanford moved out of the governor's mansion in August and lives with the couple's sons at the family's coastal home on Sullivans Island. Her divorce complaint on the grounds of adultery did not mention money, property or custody arrangements.

Nobody answered the door at the Sullivans Island home Friday and Jenny Sanford did not respond to messages left with her and her spokeswoman. Mark Sanford's spokesman also said he would not speak publicly.

Mark Sanford, 49, disappeared for almost a week in late June to see Chapur, leaving his staff and his wife in the dark about where he was.

His staff told reporters he was on a hiking trip within the United States. He returned and tearfully confessed the affair at a rambling news conference.

Jenny Sanford said then she was willing to reconcile with the two-term governor, once mentioned as a possible 2012 Republican presidential contender.

She weathered the publication of passionate e-mail exchanges between her husband and Chapur, and an Associated Press interview in which he called his mistress his "soul mate" and admitted "crossing the line" with other women.

Jenny Sanford, who is working on a memoir, said she learned about the affair in January when she found a copy of a letter her husband wrote to Chapur. In the months

following, he asked several times to visit his mistress. His wife said no.

"It's one thing to forgive adultery; it's another thing to condone it," she told the AP two days after her husband revealed the affair.

On Wednesday, a legislative panel considering whether to impeach Sanford instead recommended a formal rebuke.

The panel said his trips to see Chapur in Argentina and his use of state planes for personal and political trips brought "ridicule, dishonor, disgrace and shame" to the state he was twice overwhelmingly elected to lead. □



In a Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009 file photo, South Carolina first lady Jenny Sanford, right, looks on as her husband Gov. Mark Sanford, takes a photo with guests at the Governor's Mansion in Columbia, S.C., during a Christmas Open House. Jenny Sanford announced Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 that she has filed for divorce, months after her husband publicly confessed an affair with Maria Belen Chapur.

*Associated Press*

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## Decision to create new Indian state sparks protest



Lawyers in support of the creation of a separate Telangana state shout slogans outside the High Court in Hyderabad, India, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009. Protesters took to the streets Friday, setting public buses on fire and clashing with police, in anger over India's decision to carve a new state out of the southern region of Andhra Pradesh. Placard reads "Hail a united Andhra Pradesh."

*Associated Press*

**NIRMALA GEORGE**

**Associated Press Writer**

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — Protesters took to the streets Friday, setting public buses on fire and clashing with police, in anger over India's decision to carve a new state out of the southern region

of Andhra Pradesh.

The conflict highlighted the tensions that underlie the vast array of ethnic and linguistic groups bound together in the massive Indian nation.

The country has allayed some of that friction by

giving substantial power to its 28 states and creating new states to empower still more ethnic minorities.

In a surprise move, the federal government agreed Wednesday to give in to a 11-day hunger strike by a senior politician, K. Chandrasekhara Rao, who demanded the creation of the new state of Telangana out of the vast state of Andhra Pradesh.

As Rao's condition weakened, his supporters stepped up protests and threatened to storm the state legislature. Telangana supporters have complained their area in the north of the state was underdeveloped and ignored by powerful politicians from southern Andhra Pradesh. Demands for a separate state have erupted sporadically since the 1950s.

The government's decision to create a new state led to counter protests. A mob rampaged through the streets of Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, Friday in anger over the government's decision. Under the proposal, Hyderabad would be located deep inside Telangana, though it was not clear whether it would be part of the new state, the old state, or serve as a joint capital.

The crowd lit a bus ablaze and threw rocks at vehicles, while police tried to disperse them with batons.

The decision also stirred anger within the ruling Congress Party, with more than 130 Andhra Pradesh legislators resigning from the party to oppose the division of one of India's largest states.

Already, the government appeared to be backtracking. Andhra Pradesh chief minister K. Rosaiah said the government would move ahead with the decision only if a broad consensus was evident among the people of the state.

The government's initial decision has given hope to ethnic minority groups across India who have been pushing for states of their own for decades, including in the remote northeast, where long simmering separatist demands often boil over into violence.

"If Andhra Pradesh can be divided to create a new state, why not Assam?

Our demand for a separate Bodoland state for the Bodo ethnic group is more than two decades old," Hagrama Mohilary, chief of the autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council, said Friday.

Meanwhile, critics said the government did not properly study the ramifications before announcing its decision on Telangana.

"The decision was taken in immense haste. It wasn't thought through. The party's own legislators are rebelling against this," said Pratap Bhanu Mehta, political analyst and head of the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi.

He said activists' demands that large states be divided along ethnic lines to empower the minority groups has merit.

"India has four times the population of the United States, but far fewer states. A demand for smaller more representative states is justified, but this needs to be done within a constitutional framework and not by giving in to political agitations of this kind," Mehta said.

There are also movements calling for the break up of at least six other states besides Andhra Pradesh.

On Friday, leaders of the Gorkhas — a group of ethnic Nepalis living in West Bengal — called for an indefinite strike to push their decades-old demand for the creation of Gorkhaland. □

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## UN CLIMATE

Continued from Front Page

"It's time to begin to focus on the big picture," said Yvo de Boer, the top U.N. climate official. "The serious discussion on finance and targets has begun."

A much-disputed 188-page text was whittled down to a mere seven pages of stark options on how much global warming is acceptable and how deeply nations must individually and collectively cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Options ranged from nearly eliminating global emissions to cutting them in half by 2050.

The document forced countries to abandon long-held posturing on secondary topics and focus on crunch issues. Starting Saturday, environment ministers will be able to go through the 46 points of text one by one, checking off some and leaving the toughest for the 110 heads of state and government arriving at the end of next week.

Many countries voiced reservations about the structure of the document or some of its clauses. "But that's all right. That's what negotiations are all about," de Boer said.

Todd Stern, the special U.S. climate envoy, called the text "constructive" but singled out the section on helping poor countries lower their growth of carbon emissions as "unbalanced." He said the requirements on industrial countries were tougher than on developing nations and the section was not "a basis for negotiation."

Environmental groups welcomed the text as a step forward, although they lamented the absence of what they considered essential elements.

"It's a good pointer to a number of issues to be dealt with at the ministerial and even the head-of-state level over the next week," said Kim Carstensen of the environmental group WWF. "We're disappointed it does not include any clarity on what the legal outcome will be."

It said all countries together should reduce emissions by a range of 50 percent to 95 percent by 2050, and rich

countries should cut emissions by 25 to 40 percent by 2020, in both cases using 1990 as the baseline year.

So far, industrial nations' pledges to cut emissions have amounted to far less than the minimum.

After years of being bogged down in detail, the draft highlighted the broad goals the world must achieve to avoid irreversible change in climate

that scientists say could bring many species to extinction and cause upheavals in many parts of the Earth.

The draft agreement, drawn up by Michael Zammit Cutajar of Malta, said global emissions of greenhouse gases should peak "as soon as possible," while avoiding a target year.

It called for new funding in the next three years by wealthy countries to help poor nations

adapt to a changing climate, but mentioned no figures. And it made no specific proposals on long-term help for developing countries.

The funding is perhaps the hardest part.

As the draft was circulated, European Union leaders announced in Brussels after two days of tough talks that they would commit \$3.6 billion (€2.4 billion) a year

until 2012 to a short-term fund for poor countries. Most of this money came from Britain, France and Germany. Many cash-strapped former East bloc countries balked at donating but eventually all gave at least a token amount to preserve the 27-nation bloc's unity.

Still unknown is how much the wealthier nations, such as the U.S. and Japan, will contribute. □

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*Masha Danki*

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Police investigate the grave of former Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos at a cemetery in the Deftera suburb of Nicosia, Cyprus, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009. A bronze plaque at left shows Tassos Papadopoulos.

Associated Press

# Police: Body of Cyprus president stolen from grave

JOHN LEONIDOU

Associated Press Writer

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)

— Grave robbers stole the corpse of former hardline Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos, digging up his coffin during a thunderstorm just before the first anniversary of his death, police said Friday.

The body-snatching horrified people in Cyprus and came as the island's Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders are locked in complex reunification talks that have made limited progress.

Police said the tomb raiders struck late Thursday or early Friday. There was no immediate indication of a motive and police would not confirm a state television report that three people were being questioned in connection with the robbery.

President Demetris Christofias, who beat Papadopoulos in March 2008 elections, urged Cypriots "to remain calm in the face of this provocative act."

"This is an unacceptable, unholy, unethical and condemnable act that damages our tradition, our culture and our respect toward the dead," Christofias said.

Papadopoulos is seen by some nationalist Greek Cypriots as a symbol of resistance against peace deals they believe have been weighted against them.

"What happened is macabre and utterly condemnable. I am honestly still trying to comprehend what kind of warped minds could even think of doing such a thing, let alone actually carry it out," said Andros Kyprianou, the head of

Cyprus' ruling AKEL party. He urged that those responsible be "caught and made an example of."

Mounds of fresh earth were piled by the fenced-off grave site Friday at the Deftera Village Cemetery as about 80 police and two pathologists combed the area and nearly fields for clues.

The robbers had removed a heavy marble plaque from on top of the grave, police said, digging down to the coffin and taking the body of Papadopoulos, who died of lung cancer on Dec. 12, 2008, at 74.

A light-gray substance was sprayed across the tombstone in a southwestern suburb of the capital Nicosia, obscuring Papadopoulos' name and date of birth but leaving the tombstone otherwise unharmed. Local media said the substance appeared to be asbestos, possibly used to erase the robbers' shoe prints.

The violated grave was discovered by one of Papadopoulos' former security guards when he went to make arrangements Friday morning for a ceremony marking the anniversary of the former president's death, police said.

Papadopoulos served as president from 2003-2008, ushering the ethnically divided island into the European Union in 2004. He was a central figure of Cypriot politics for decades, with a career spanning most of the island's turbulent history since it gained independence from Britain in 1960.

The island was split in 1974 into a Turkish-occupied north and an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot

south after Turkey invaded in response to a coup by those wanting to unify the island with Greece.

A British-trained lawyer, Papadopoulos was a guerrilla leader for the Greek Cypriot group EOKA, which waged an anti-colonial campaign. Later, at 26, he served as the youngest cabinet minister in the island's first post-independence government.

In 2004, he urged Greek Cypriots to reject a U.N.-brokered reunification plan, which he vilified as entrenching the island's division rather than ending it. Three-quarters of Cypriots obliged him in an April 2004 referendum. Two-thirds of Turkish Cypriots accepted the plan. Papadopoulos' family issued a statement saying they were grieved and angered by the "sacrilegious act."

The theft of his remains "cannot in any way bury the policy or erase the political will of Tassos Papadopoulos. Wherever his body may be, his voice will still be heard," the family statement said.

Relatives, former colleagues and politicians visited the desecrated site throughout the day, with Papadopoulos' daughter, Anastasia, taking away a framed photograph of her father that had stood at the grave.

The body snatching was roundly condemned, including by the European Union's Swedish presidency and Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou.

"This is really shocking. I cannot believe that such a thing could happen, especially in Cyprus," said Andros Christou, a nearby resident. "The only thing that I heard last night was rain and thunder." □

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# DomRep: Ousted Honduras leader, successor to meet

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The leader of the Dominican Republic said Friday that ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya will meet with his elected successor next week in this Caribbean nation.

There was no indication, however, that a deal for allowing such a meeting had been reached with the interim government that replaced Zelaya after a coup June 28. Dominican President Leonel Fernandez told reporters that he expected Zelaya and President-elect Porfirio Lobo to meet Monday in Santo Domingo to talk about ways for resolving the political crisis that has gripped Honduras since Zelaya was deposed.

"As of Sunday and Monday,

we will have both figures of the Honduran political world in the Dominican Republic," Fernandez said, adding that Zelaya would arrive on Sunday and Lobo on Monday morning.

Fernandez told reporters he expected to meet with both men separately and then bring them together for discussions. In Honduras' capital, information minister Rene Zepeda said the interim government had not received a petition from Zelaya or from officials in the Dominican Republic asking that Zelaya be granted safe passage to leave the country.

Honduran officials and Zelaya have been at odds this week on terms of a deal that would let him emerge from the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa

without fear of arrest on the charges of treason and abuse of power that led to his ouster. He has taken refuge in the embassy since sneaking back into Honduras on Sept. 21.

The government insists he must concede he is no longer president, although his term runs to Jan. 27. Zelaya says he won't do that.

Zelaya also did not confirm that a meeting is set with Lobo.

He told The Associated Press only that he was grateful to Fernandez for seeking to arrange the meeting.

"We are thankful for President Fernandez's gesture because it shows his intention to solve the Honduran crisis in an effort to benefit Central America. We are analyzing his proposal and we are in communication with President Fernandez,"



In this photo released by the Portuguese Foreign Ministry, Dominican Republic's President Leonel Fernandez is seen upon arriving at Lisbon's airport Sunday, Nov. 29 2009. Correa arrived in Portugal to attend the XIX Ibero American summit that brings together the leaders of 19 Latin-American countries plus Portugal, Spain and Andorra.

Associated Press

Zelaya said.

There was no immediate comment from Lobo, who won the Nov. 29 presidential election that Honduras had scheduled before Zelaya was

removed from office and sent out of the country at gunpoint. Lobo has said he supports granting amnesty both to Zelaya and to all of those involved in the coup. □





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# Don't drink & DRIVE



# Pee-wee Herman's big comeback



Actor Paul Reubens portraying Pee-wee Herman poses for a portrait while promoting 'The Pee-wee Herman Show' live stage play, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, in Los Angeles. The play will begin a limited engagement on Jan. 12, 2010 through Feb. 7, 2010 at Club Nokia in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Danny Moloshok)

By MIKE CIDONI,

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES – The star may be Pee-wee, but his new live stage show is absolutely huge.

"The Pee-wee Herman

Show," opening next month in downtown Los Angeles at Club Nokia theater, cost millions to mount. It boasts 11 actors, 20 puppets and marks the show's first production since 1982.

So, why now?

"Well, you know, I really want to make a movie version of 'The Playhouse,' my Saturday morning kid show," Paul Reubens said in an interview earlier this week in which he stayed in his exuberant Pee-wee persona.

"This seemed like a great way to do it: Reintroduce it, get back out there, introduce Pee-wee to the new generation that didn't know about it."

An impulsive, sometimes naughty child living a fantastical world, the Pee-wee character first made a big splash with the live "The Pee-wee Herman Show," which debuted at Groundlings theater in Los Angeles in 1981. An HBO broadcast of the show spread the Pee-wee gospel across the country later

that year, and a 1985 Tim Burton-directed feature film, "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," was an acclaimed and popular success.

Then came the television series "Pee-wee's Playhouse" (1986-91), which ran for five seasons, earned 22 Emmys and attracted not only children but adults to Saturday-morning television.

Pee-wee was shelved after Reubens' July 1991 arrest for indecent exposure in an adult-movie house in Sarasota, Fla., resulting in a small fine. Reubens, now 57, continued to act, playing characters other than Pee-wee, scoring successes as the Penguin's father in "Batman Returns" (1992) and a 1995 Emmy nomination for a recurring guest role on "Murphy Brown." But Pee-wee would ultimately rise again.

"Well, I went back and forth between wanting to do it and not wanting to do (the new stage show)," Reubens said. "I had a producer that was calling

me every two months for two years. And every two months, I would change my mind. And then, finally, one day I woke up and decided, 'This is it, I'm coming back.'"

As with the original stage show, the new production spins around Pee-wee's desire to fly. The menagerie of "Playhouse" characters is back, as are some of the original cast members, including Lynne Stewart as Miss Yvonne, John Moody as Mailman Mike and John Paragon as Jambi the Genie.

"I think I am grateful for my friends," Reubens said. "I am grateful for my fans. I am grateful that people still support me. I am grateful that people are going to buy tickets to come see my fabulous, fantastic, unbelievably incredible show at Club Nokia. ... I hope people have tickets and that is pretty much what I am thankful for."

"The Pee-wee Herman Show" is scheduled to run for a limited four-week engagement, Jan. 12- Feb. 7. □



French rock legend Johnny Hallyday, seen here in February 2009, lay in an artificial coma on Friday, his press service said, after claims that he suffered a botched back operation in a Paris clinic favoured by celebrities.

(AFP/File/Boris Horvat)

## French rocker Hallyday in artificial coma

PARIS (AFP) – French rock legend Johnny Hallyday lay in an artificial coma on Friday in Los Angeles, a spokesman said, after claims that he suffered a botched back operation in a Paris clinic favoured by celebrities.

The 66-year-old singer fell seriously ill on Monday and was taken to Cedars Sinai hospital in Los Angeles where doctors put him in a drug-induced coma as he recovered from surgery to deal with an infection from an earlier operation.

On Thursday Hallyday had woken for a time, but a spokesman told AFP on Friday that he had been put back into an artificial coma "to prevent suffering and enable him to be treated."

"Things are as good as they can be for now and Johnny's condition is satisfactory," the singer's producer Jean-Claude Camus told TF1 on Friday.

While he has never been taken seriously abroad, Hallyday is by far the best known rocker in France, with a colourful rock 'n' roll lifestyle. He was born to a Belgian father in Paris but has homes in Los Angeles and Switzerland.

Known as the "French Elvis", he has sold more than 100 million albums and played 45 major tours, selling out at stadiums. □

## Former Met museum director Thomas Hoving dies

By VERENA DOBNIK,

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK – Thomas Hoving, whose charismatic but controversial leadership of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art is summed up in his autobiography, "Making the Mummies Dance," has died. He was 78.

Hoving died of lung cancer Thursday at his Manhattan home, his family said.

As the Met's director from 1967 to 1977, he turned an institution he said was "dying" into a happening museum with blockbuster exhibits. The treasures from Egyptian King Tutankhamun's tomb was the most popular exhibit in the museum's history, drawing more than 1 million visitors in New York, plus 5.6 million more at five other American museums.

But Hoving also raised dust in other ways, paying \$5.5 million for a Velazquez masterpiece while selling works by Van Gogh and others to help pay for it. And he had no qualms about letting people sit and snack on the museum's front staircase, which he had enlarged.

Hoving's philosophy was: anything to make people notice great art. A brash star in a sometimes staid profession, he was a "perennial thorn in the side of the museum mafia," author and art historian Michael Gross wrote in his book "Rogues Gallery."

"I'm a goner," Hoving told Gross in July, after being diagnosed with cancer in late spring. "But I have no regrets. I've had a terrific life."

In addition to his years at the Met, the native New Yorker was also a scholar, an art curator, the city's parks commissioner and a best-selling author.

When he took over the Met at 35 as its youngest director ever, he created a department for contemporary works, displaying American artists such as Jackson Pollock, Jasper Johns and



FILE - In this file photo of Jan. 4, 1967 Thomas P.F. Hoving attends a party in New York shortly after becoming director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. During his decade as the Met's director he turned an institution he once said was 'dying' into a happening with blockbuster exhibits. Hoving died Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009 of cancer at his Manhattan home, according to his family. He was 78.

(AP Photo/Marty Lederhandler, File)

Andy Warhol.

He filled whole galleries with Islamic art and expanded the Egyptian wing with the addition of the Temple of Dendur. The ancient place of worship was saved from being submerged by the construction of Egypt's Aswan Dam and transported to the edge of Central Park, where it's visible from afar — illuminated behind glass walls. □



## BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

## Economic reports raise hopes for global recovery



**FILE** - In this file photo made Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, a customer pulls a cart filled with a flat screen television and other items during the traditional Black Friday shopping day at the Target store in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
and **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**,  
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — Just in time for Christmas, the fragile economic recovery is showing signs of strengthening: Consumers are spending, companies are rebuilding stockpiles and Chinese exports are mounting a comeback.

Data released Friday eased some worries about Americans' willingness to spend this holiday season. But stores remain worried that they may have to offer deeper discounts than planned, perhaps as early as this weekend, because of mediocre sales so far.

Most stores have reported lackluster results for the start of the holiday season, so the Commerce Department's retail-sales report for November was encouraging. Sales rose 1.3 percent — the healthiest advance since August and more than double the increase economists had expected.

Most economists have been concerned that high unemployment could depress

(AP Photo/Amy Sancetta, file)

spending and drag down an economy struggling to emerge from the worst recession since the 1930s.

"The labor market is showing signs of stabilization, and this is giving consumers greater confidence to spend a little more than they were earlier this year," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi in New York.

But other analysts cautioned that the economy still faces so many obstacles that consumer spending and the recovery are likely to be sluggish in the months ahead.

"High unemployment, poor income growth, tight credit and the need to pay down debt mean that consumption growth is likely to slow," said Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics.

Shoppers crowded malls for deep discounts over Thanksgiving weekend, but many consumers have been slow to return. Some analysts say the industry could suffer its second straight year of holiday-season sales declines.

The two weeks since Thanksgiving have been especially tepid. According to ShopperTrak, a research firm that tracks sales and traffic, sales slipped 0.3 percent for the week that ended Dec. 5 compared with the year-ago period. And they plummeted 18 percent compared with the previous week.

Officials at ShopperTrak estimated Friday that business did not improve much this week.

The disappointing business comes as stores, from Toys R Us to J.C. Penney, have been expanding hours and offering discounts to attract shoppers during the traditional lull after Thanksgiving. But most stores have stopped short of drastic price slashing.

Many are counting on a strong sales rebound this weekend. If that does not happen, they may have to cut prices further.

"It's been slow for sure," said Bryan Eshelman, managing director of the retail practice of AlixPartners. During the Thanksgiving weekend "people took advantage of promotions and now are waiting for similar levels of discounting."

With tight credit and high unemployment, "there is just a reset in the mindset of what people are willing to spend," he said.

C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, a market research firm, said shoppers are now looking for 60 to 70 percent off across all merchandise. "Giving customers 50 percent off is nothing," he said.

One shopper, Jared Wadley, 42, from Ypsilanti Township, Mich., said he's delaying some holiday buying until the final days before Christmas.

"I don't want to buy everything now and find out a week or two later that I could have gotten a better deal," he said. Economists consider the

Commerce Department figures a more inclusive figure than the stores' data. The government figures cover a broader category of spending, from home furnishings to electronics to gasoline station sales. They also include online sales and results from electronics chains, two bright spots for the holiday season.

And they take in Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, which no longer reports monthly sales.

Stocks rose moderately after the sales report was released but were mixed in late afternoon trading. Retail stocks rose sharply, with Macy's surging nearly 6 percent and Saks up more than 4 percent. □

## Stronger retail sales and sentiment boost stocks

By **SARA LEPRO**  
and **TIM PARADIS**,  
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks mostly rose Friday on signs that consumers and businesses are feeling more confident about the economy.

The Commerce Department said retail sales rose 1.3 percent in November, more than double the increase analysts had expected and better than the 1.1 percent rise in October.

The report boosted hopes that consumers are starting to feel more comfortable opening their wallets after months of building up their savings. A recovery in consumer spending, a major component of U.S. economic activity, is seen as one of the key elements to sustained growth.

A separate report showing an increase in consumer confidence signaled that spending could continue to rise. The preliminary Reuters/University of Michigan consumer sentiment index increased more than expected in December.

In another welcome sign, the Commerce Department reported a 0.2 percent gain in business inventories in October, breaking a 13-month streak of declines. That's a signal that businesses expect consumers to step up their purchases.

Outside the U.S., news that China's exports improved last month provided more evidence that the global economy is recovering. Chinese exports posted their smallest drop in exports in a year last month, just 1.2 percent, following a 13.8 percent plunge in October. Retail sales and industrial production grew.

Hopes of an economic rebound have driven stocks higher for nine months but in the past month the pace of gains have slowed as investors look to lock in the year's double-digit gains as they face questions about whether the economy's recovery will continue.

Stephen Wood, chief market strategist at Russell Investments, said the day's reports help confirm that the economy is on the right track.

"We're going from the first global recession in 70 years to a tepid, but very real global growth story," he said.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 65.67, or 0.6 percent, to 10,471.50. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 4.06, or 0.4 percent, to 1,106.41, while the Nasdaq composite index slipped 0.55, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,190.31. □



# HEALTH

## Aruba TODAY



# Novel drug combo improves breast cancer survival



A woman shows off her breast cancer survivor bracelet in a file photo.

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**,  
AP Medical Writer

**SAN ANTONIO** — Some women with very advanced breast cancer may have a new treatment option. A combination of two drugs that more precisely target tumors significantly extended the lives of women who had stopped responding to other medicines, doctors reported Friday.

It was the first big test of combining Herceptin and Tykerb. In a study of 300 patients, women receiving both drugs lived nearly five months longer than those given Tykerb alone.

Doctors hope for an even bigger benefit in women with less advanced disease, and were elated at this much improvement for very sick women who were facing certain death.

“We don’t see a lot that works in patients who have seen six prior therapies as they did in this trial, so that alone is exciting,” said Dr. Jennifer Litton, a breast cancer specialist at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The good results are in stark contrast to two other studies that found no survival advantage from Avastin, a \$30,000-a-month drug whose approval for breast cancer patients was very controversial.

Considering Avastin’s

*REUTERS/Jim Bourq*

potential side effects — blood clots in the lungs, poor wound healing, kidney problems — a survival benefit “would have made the cost of the drug less painful to take,” Litton said. She had no role in any of the studies, which were reported Friday at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. Herceptin and Tykerb aim at a protein called HER-2 that is made in abnormally large quantities in about one-fourth of all breast cancers. Herceptin blocks the protein on the cell’s surface; Tykerb does it inside the cell.

“It’s kind of like having a double brake on your tumor. If the first one fails, the second one does the job,” said the Dr. Kimberly Blackwell of Duke University. She led the combo treatment study and has consulted for its sponsor, British-based GlaxoSmithKline PLC, which makes Tykerb, and for Genentech, which makes Herceptin and Avastin.

Women in the study had already received Herceptin alone or with various chemotherapy drugs and still were getting worse. They were randomly assigned to receive only Tykerb or both drugs, to see whether the combo might help Herceptin regain its effectiveness.

Median survival was analyzed after about three-fourths of the women had died — roughly two years after the study

began. It was 61 weeks in the combo group versus 41 for those taking only Tykerb.

That likely underestimates the combo’s true benefit because women on Tykerb alone were allowed to add Herceptin partway through the study if they continued to worsen, and many of them did, Blackwell said.

One woman on the combo in the study suffered a fatal blood clot. The only other common, serious side effect was diarrhea, which plagued 7 to 8 percent of each group. Herceptin costs about \$10,000 a month; Tykerb, \$5,000 to \$6,000.

Stephanie Will gets the drugs for free from the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, N.C., where her husband is based. She was only 30 years old and nursing her third child when her cancer was found in 2003. She received the combo treatment as part of the study.

“It’s been three years and four months, and it’s been stable,” Will said of her cancer. The combo has been easy to take compared to other treatments, she said.

“It’s allowed me to live my life pretty normally.”

Dr. Eric Winer, breast cancer chief at the Dana-Farber Cancer Center in Boston, said

several studies now show that Herceptin still helps women even when their cancers seem to be getting worse.

“Herceptin is like a big roadblock on a superhighway. Eventually the cancer finds a way around it by taking an off ramp. But it’s much less efficient to take that off ramp, so Herceptin is still having some influence on that cancer,” said Winer, who, like Litton, has no financial ties to any drugmakers.

“Herceptin is a drug that keeps on giving,” he said.

Not so for Avastin, which works by crimping a tumor’s blood supply. □

## U.S. panel to weigh safety of AstraZeneca’s Crestor

**WASHINGTON** (Reuters) — U.S. regulators see benefits to using an AstraZeneca Plc cholesterol drug in a vast new group of patients but will ask outside advisers to probe various safety issues, documents released on Friday said.

AstraZeneca wants permission to promote the drug, Crestor, for preventing heart disease in people with normal cholesterol levels but other risk factors based on findings of a large study known as Jupiter.

A Food and Drug Administration reviewer, commenting on a higher number of diabetes cases reported with Crestor patients, said that, at the current time, the benefits seen in the Jupiter trial “outweigh the risk, but further clinical trials are needed to further define this benefit/risk ratio.”

The Jupiter trial “was relatively short in duration” and “therefore the long-term complications are unknown,” the reviewer said.

The reviewer also said the agency felt it was a “chance finding” that gastrointestinal-related deaths were higher in Crestor patients compared with a placebo.

The comments were included in documents the FDA released ahead of a meeting on Tuesday of a panel of outside advisers.

The advisory panel will be asked to comment on the diabetes and gastrointestinal findings before deciding whether to recommend

approval for expanded use, according to a November 12 memo. The FDA also will seek input on a higher number of patients who reported a “confusional state” in the Crestor group, the memo said.

Barclays Capital analyst Brian Bourdot said he expects the advisory panel to support wider use of Crestor.

“Overall, the FDA review appears benign, with few safety concerns and little disagreement that Crestor shows a significant benefit” in the expanded group, Bourdot said in a note to clients.

The Jupiter study showed Crestor cut deaths, heart attacks and strokes in middle-aged people with healthy cholesterol, but elevated levels of C-reactive protein, which is associated with heart disease.

The FDA said it would ask the advisory panel to “keep in mind that an estimated 6 million middle-aged and older men and women in the United States” meet the criteria of people in the study.

AstraZeneca said in an analysis also released by the FDA that Crestor’s risks in the Jupiter study were “consistent with the known safety profile.”

The company said potential side effects were outweighed by the benefits, including a 44 percent reduction in cardiovascular-related deaths, strokes, heart attacks and other problems. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

# Tiger Woods to take 'indefinite' leave from golf



In this Nov. 23, 2003 file photo, Tiger Woods, right, stands near his then-girlfriend Elin Nordegren, left, during the final day of the Presidents Cup 2003 Golf Tournament at the Fancourt Golf Estate in George, South Africa. Amid all the headlines generated by Tiger Woods' troubles, the puzzling car accident, the suggestions of marital turmoil and multiple mistresses, little attention has been given to the race of the women linked with the world's greatest golfer. Except in the black community.

*Associated Press*

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods says he's taking an indefinite leave from golf to work on saving his marriage, using the word "infidelity" for the first time in a statement posted on his Web site on Friday.

"After much soul searching, I have decided to take an indefinite break from professional golf," Woods said. "I need to focus my attention on being a better husband, father, and person." Woods and his wife, Elin, have been married for five years and have a 2-year-old daughter and 10-month-old son.

The announcement came two weeks after a car accident set in motion a shocking downfall for the world's No. 1 player, and included sordid allegations of numerous extramarital affairs. One woman even shared a voice mail she said Woods left her two nights before his Nov. 27 accident.

Woods hasn't been seen in

public since the accident.

"I am deeply aware of the disappointment and hurt that my infidelity has caused to so many people, most of all my wife and children," Woods said. "I want to say again to everyone that I am profoundly sorry and that I ask forgiveness. It may not be possible to repair the damage I've done, but I want to do my best to try."

The U.S. PGA Tour said it supported the decision by its biggest star.

"His priorities are where they need to be, and we will continue to respect and honor his family's request for privacy," tour commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement, the tour's first public comment since Woods mentioned his "personal failings" on Dec. 2. "We look forward to Tiger's return to the PGA Tour when he determines the time is right for him."

The announcement by Woods raised the possibility, depending on how long he stays away from the game,

that he could miss the Masters for the first time since he played as an amateur in 1995. The tournament is from April 8-11. One of Woods' favorite playing partners also said it was the right thing to do.

"I think it's great that he's going to put his family first and work things out," Steve Stricker said from Naples. "Golf will always be there. He wants to make sure his marriage is right and everything is good on the homefront. We'll sure miss him on tour until he gets things taken care of."

It will be the second straight season the U.S. PGA Tour begins without its No. 1 player, although this is different. A year ago, he was out of golf for eight months while recovering from reconstructive knee

surgery, and U.S. television ratings dropped 50 percent during his absence.

"We knew before he was coming back," Stricker said. "Now we're not sure when he's coming back. But this sounds good. I hope everything works out for him."

Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, told The Associated Press that he supports Woods' decision to take time off for his family. "The entirety of someone's life is more important than just a professional career," Steinberg said in an e-mail to the AP. "What matters most is a young family that is trying to cope with difficult life issues in a secluded and caring way. Whenever Tiger may return to the game should be on the family's terms alone."

Addressing the subject of Woods' sponsors, Steinberg said that "it would be both premature and inappropriate to comment on the status of specific business relationships."

"Suffice it to say, we have had thoughtful conversations and his sponsors have been open to a solution-oriented dialogue," he said. "Of course, each sponsor has unique considerations and ultimately the decisions they make we would fully understand and accept."

Earlier this year, Woods became the world's first athlete to surpass \$1 billion in career earnings, according to Forbes magazine. His sponsors include Nike, Gillette, AT&T, Accenture and Tag Heuer. □

## NBA Roundup

# Jazz bounces back with win over Magic



Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams (8) puts up a shot during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, in Salt Lake City. The Jazz beat the Magic 120-111.

*Associated Press*

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah Jazz shook off an embarrassing defeat the previous day to beat the NBA's Eastern Conference leader Orlando Magic 120-111 on Thursday.

Deron Williams scored 21 of his 32 points in the second half and had 15 assists and eight rebounds for Utah.

Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Jazz, coming off a loss the previous day when they scored just six points in the fourth quarter against the Lakers.

Vince Carter had 34 points for Orlando, which had won eight in a row on the road. In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Detroit held on to beat Denver when former Pistons star Chauncey Billups missed a layup in the final seconds.

Charlie Villanueva scored 27 points, and Rodney Stuckey had 26 to help Detroit run its winning streak to a season-best four games.

Carmelo Anthony scored 40 points for Denver.

In Washington, Rajon Rondo's driving dunk with a minute remaining gave Boston its ninth straight victory, edging Washington.

Rondo had 21 points and 11 assists, and Ray Allen had 18 and became the 32nd NBA player to score 20,000 points. Gilbert Arenas led Washington with 25 points, but missed a pair of free throws with 27 seconds to play.

**In other NBA games it was, Detroit 101, Denver 99; Boston 104, Washington 102; and Utah 120, Orlando 111.** □



# Kings close on NHL lead, edge Coyotes in SO

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings moved within a point of the NHL lead with a 3-2 shootout win over the Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday.

Oscar Moller and Jack Johnson netted first-period goals for the Kings and Justin Williams scored in the eighth round of a shootout.

Los Angeles capitalized on the absence of suspended Phoenix defenseman Ed Jovanovski in a victory over the Coyotes, who lost for the first time in six games.

The Coyotes answered the first three times the Kings scored in the shootout, but L.A. goalie Jonathan Quick denied Scottie Upshall after Williams' goal.

Radim Vrbata scored the tying goal for Phoenix during a power play with 16:48 left in regulation. Upshall also scored.

**Penguins 3, Canadiens 2**  
In Montreal, Pittsburgh ended Montreal's three-game streak and moved into a tie for first place in the Atlantic Division.

Pascal Dupuis scored the



Los Angeles Kings right wing Justin Williams, left, scores on Phoenix Coyotes goalie Ilya Bryzgalov of Russia during an overtime shootout in their NHL hockey game, Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, in Los Angeles. The Kings won the game 3-2.

winner with a slap shot 13 minutes into the third period, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 19 saves.

Sergei Gonchar had a goal and an assist, and Matt Cooke also scored for the Penguins.

Matt D'Agostini and Roman Hamrlik scored on Montreal's first and third shots of the second period. The Canadiens were outshot 41-21 in the game.

**Predators 4, Blue Jackets**

**3, SO**

In Nashville, Tennessee, Steve Sullivan scored the winning goal in the fifth round of the shootout to lift Nashville over Columbus.

The Predators have defeated the Blue Jackets 13 consecutive times at home. Sullivan's wrist shot went under the goalie's pad for the winner.

Dave Scatchard, back from an upper body injury, gave the Predators a 1-0 lead in

*Associated Press*  
the first period. Martin Erat and Jason Arnott scored in the second period for Nashville.

Blue Jackets defenseman Kris Russell and Raffi Torres also scored in the second, and Rick Nash tied it in the third.

**Canucks 4, Thrashers 2**  
In Vancouver, British Columbia, Daniel Sedin scored Vancouver's first three goals, and the Canucks held on to beat Atlanta.

Sedin opened the scoring on a wraparound 3 minutes in, and deflected in his second goal late in the first period. He got his hat-trick goal early in the second, when Atlanta forward Nik Antropov accidentally tipped Sedin's backdoor pass into the net.

Mason Raymond also scored for the Canucks.

Colby Armstrong and Antropov, on a power play, scored for the Thrashers, who have dropped the past three games.

**Bruins 5, Maple Leafs 2**

In Boston, Mark Recchi scored twice in the final three minutes to seal Boston's win over Toronto, moving the Bruins to the top of the Northeast Division.

Mark Stuart, Derek Morris and David Krejci scored to give the Bruins a 3-0 lead after two periods. Mikhail Grabovski and Nikolai Kulemin had goals in the third to cut Toronto's deficit to 3-2, but Recchi scored with 2:37 to play and added an empty netter with 12 seconds left.

Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask stopped 32 shots.

**Senators 2, Flyers 0**

In Philadelphia, Brian Elliott made 22 saves in his second NHL shutout, as Ottawa held off slumping Philadelphia.

Nick Foligno and Jesse Winchester scored third-period goals for the Senators, who recorded their first shutout of the season.

The Flyers were blanked for the third time in six games. They have scored only 11 times in seven games, and six came in one game.

**In other NHL games:**  
Ottawa 2, Philadelphia 0; Boston 5, Toronto 2; Pittsburgh 3, Montreal 2; Nashville 4, Columbus 3, SO; Vancouver 4, Atlanta 2; and Los Angeles 3, Phoenix 2, SO. □



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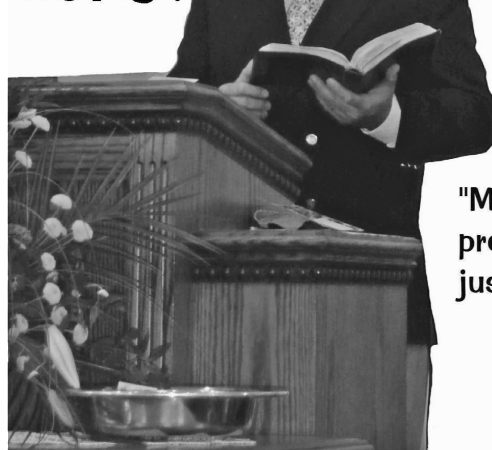
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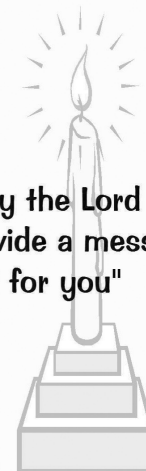
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# Davis, Wolf set world records at World Cup speedskating meet

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

KEARNS, Utah (AP) — American Shani Davis and Germany's Jenny Wolf lowered their own world records in the final speedskating World Cup before the Vancouver Olympics on Friday.

Davis won the 1,500 meters in 1 minute, 41.04 seconds at the Utah Olympic Oval. The time bettered his old mark of 1:41.80 set on March 6 at the same track. American rival Chad Hedrick was second in 1:42.50.

Wolf skated 500 meters in 37 seconds, lowering her previous mark of 37.02 set on Nov. 16, 2007, at Calgary.

Five-time Olympic gold medalist Claudia Pechstein of Germany finished 13th in the 3,000, her first race of the season as she continues appealing her two-year ban for blood doping.

Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic won the race

in 3:56.29.

Lee Kyou-Hyuk of South Korea won the men's 500 in 34.26.

A huge smile appeared on Davis' face after he crossed the 1,500 finish line and it stayed there as he waved his way around the oval. The result was the opposite of last week's 1,500 at a World Cup in Calgary, where Hedrick edged Davis.

Davis notched his fourth win this season against Hedrick, who's beaten Davis twice.

On the podium, Hedrick grabbed Davis' arm and held it up as the crowd cheered.

Davis declined to speak to reporters afterward.

Pechstein was cleared to compete only in the one race on Tuesday by the Federal Tribunal, Switzerland's highest court. Pechstein arrived in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, giving her little time to adjust to the high altitude.

Pechstein took her case to the

Swiss court after the Court of Arbitration for Sport last month upheld her suspension until February 2011. The 37-year-old German has never failed a drug test and denied doping.

Pechstein's time of 4:04.59 met the qualifying standard for the Vancouver Olympics in February, but she was 8.30 seconds slower than Sablikova.

"She was not well-prepared and also the mental pressure was enormous," German team leader Helge Jasch said. "If you would like to imagine a more difficult situation, I couldn't imagine."

She failed to finish among the top eight, which would have bolstered her case to make Germany's Olympic team. That country selects its Olympic speedskaters based on World Cup rankings.

"We have to wait now on what's going on," Jasch said, adding that he expects the



Shani Davis, of the United States, makes the final lap in the men's 1500-meter World Cup speedskating competition at the Utah Olympic Oval, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, in Kearns, Utah. Davis broke a world record with the time of 1:41.04.

Associated Press

Swiss court to rule in January. Jasch said it's possible the German Olympic committee could make an exception and put Pechstein on the team for Vancouver, but he was unsure how the International Olympic Committee would react.

Three Germans finished ahead of Pechstein. Stephanie Beckert was second, Daniela Anschutz Thoms sixth, and Katrin Mattscherodt 10th.

Pechstein's presence at the season's final World Cup created a stir. She declined to speak to U.S. media and was pursued by German television crews.

Wolf said Pechstein's late

arrival was accepted among the German team.

"It's difficult if you only have one day to adapt to the altitude," she said. "Everybody is surprised if she can skate fast."

The International Skating Union said Pechstein returned blood samples with abnormal levels at the World Allround Championships last season.

A three-person panel at CAS reiterated that abnormalities in Pechstein's blood profile "could not be reasonably explained by the various justifications submitted by the athlete nor by a congenital medical condition."

# Phelps swims to pair of wins at holiday meet

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) — Michael Phelps won the 200-yard freestyle and 100 butterfly before a packed crowd during the North Baltimore Aquatic Club's three-day holiday meet on Friday.

Phelps won the events just 15 minutes apart in the 25-yard pool at the U.S. Naval Academy's Lejeune Hall.

The winner of 14 Olympic gold medals finished the 200 freestyle in 1 minute, 33.14 seconds, more than six seconds ahead of his closest competitor, Jameson Hill.

Phelps appeared tired in his second race, unable to pull



Michael Phelps, front left, gets on the starting block to compete in open 200-yard freestyle swimming event at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club Invitational Meet, Friday, Dec. 11, 2009, at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Associated Press

away from the pack into the final turn. He finished in 47.28 seconds. □



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### NFL Roundup

# Not so Super: Browns sack Steelers 13-6

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — There's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore. The defending NFL champions lost their fifth straight and had their playoff hopes thrown for a loss by the lowly Cleveland Browns, who ended a 12-game skid against their bitter rival by beating the Steelers 13-6 on Thursday night in subzero wind chills.

Ben Roethlisberger was sacked eight times and lost for the first time in 11 career games against the Browns (2-11), who extended Pittsburgh's longest losing streak in six years and defeated the Steelers (6-7) at home for the first time since 2000.

Pittsburgh is going to need help to make the playoffs, a stunning freefall for a team that hit the season's halfway point at 6-2.

Unexpected losses to Kansas City, Oakland and Cleveland — three of the NFL's worst teams with a combined record of 9-28 — have pushed the Steelers to the brink.

"To lose five straight coming off a Super Bowl from last year is embarrassing," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "There's nothing fun about losing games, especially five in a row. We're better than that. We should play better than that. With three games left, you're going to see who really wants to go out here and play for the pride of this organization and this city and who doesn't want to be around here."

Chris Jennings, who began the season on Cleveland's practice squad, scored on a 10-yard run and Phil Dawson kicked a pair of 29-yard field goals for the Browns, who snapped



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) is sacked for a loss by Cleveland Browns defensive end Marcus Benard (58) in the second quarter of an NFL football game Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009, in Cleveland.

a seven-game losing streak, a 10-game slide at home and beat the Steelers for just the second time in 20 games.

Roethlisberger tried to rally the Steelers, but his fourth-down pass to Santonio Holmes with less than two minutes left was knocked down by linebacker David Bowens.

When Holmes was tackled on a punt return and the final second ticked off the scoreboard's clock, frozen Browns fans, who were nearly outnumbered by Terrible Towel-waving Pittsburgh fans, danced in the aisles. Several Cleveland players sprinted down field and jumped into the Dawg Pound section to celebrate.

"It means everything," Browns do-it-all wide receiver Josh Cribbs said. "There are a lot of Steelers fans around the city so I hope people go to work and

kick those Steelers fans."

The Steelers, whose defense lost some of its spirit and much of its toughness when Pro Bowl safety Troy Polamalu went down with a knee injury, left the field stunned.

"Hurtful," Holmes said. "I never thought I'd be losing five games in a row. I know those guys will continue to fight these last three games. Hopefully, we can get back in the lab this summer, regroup and start all over."

The win was just the second for Cleveland's embattled first-year coach Eric Mangini, who certainly helped his job security by beating Pittsburgh, something no Browns coach had done since Chris Palmer nine years ago.

Cribbs rushed for 87 yards out of the wildcat formation, had 104 return yards and caught one pass for 9 yards. He picked

up a big first down on a 14-yard run in the fourth quarter when the Browns were trying to milk the clock.

Afterward, Cribbs soaked in his biggest win since turning pro. He knew the Steelers' 2 1/2-hour bus trip to Pennsylvania would not be pleasant.

"They're going to hear that bus' engine all the way back," Cribbs said. "That's a lonely ride. I've ridden that ride for five years now. It's time for them to hear that engine all the way home while they look at the stat sheet."

Needing a touchdown to tie, the Steelers got the ball back with 6:16 left at their own 21. Roethlisberger, who has broken Cleveland's hearts before, began working his team down field with short passes. But he was sacked at midfield in the final two minutes and had his final pass batted away.

Brady Quinn, making his first career start against Pittsburgh, completed just one pass in the second half and finished 6 of 19 for 90 yards.

Roethlisberger went 18 of 32 for 201 yards. He had trouble throwing in the swirling winds that consistently blew over 20 mph and the Steelers were never able to establish their running game against the Browns' defense, which came in ranked 32nd overall.

Cleveland's defense dominated the first half, sacking Roethlisberger five times and pressuring him on nearly every snap.

Jennings' 10-yard scamper around right end — the first TD scored by a Cleveland running back in more than a year — put the Browns up 13-0 late in the second quarter. With their defense stuffing the Steelers and the temperature dropping, the Browns' lead seemed insurmountable.

But the Steelers drove 58 yards in 41 seconds and got a 27-yard field goal from Jeff Reed as time expired to close to 13-3 at halftime.

Reed's second field goal with 8 seconds left in the third brought the Steelers within a touchdown.

But Pittsburgh was unable to put together a scoring drive in the fourth, and now the Steelers find themselves in more trouble than they could have imagined.

This is certainly not what Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin had in mind when he promised his team would "unleash hell" in December.

"We've found new and different ways to not rise up at critical moments and we're losing football games because of it," Tomlin said. "This one happened in all three phases."

Associated Press





On Top Of The News

Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)

Saturday, December 12, 2009

## Students Celebrate the Upcoming Holidays



PALM BEACH – The Colegio Bon Bini school students celebrated the upcoming Christmas holidays at the Grand Caribbean Ballroom, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa with a festive gathering attended by the teaching staff and all kids.

See Pages B8 & 9

Both Joining Housekeeping Department At Aruba's Vacation Club Properties

# Managers Richard Paesch & Hansel Pineda Promoted At Marriott

PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott proudly announces the recent promotions of Richard Paesch and Hansel Pineda. Richard Paesch was promoted to Housekeeping Manager at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club. Hansel was appointed Housekeeping Manager at Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club. Richard began his tenure with the Marriott in 1995 as a server in the resort's La Vista restaurant. Showing his dedication and hard work, he was promoted to Restaurant Supervisor after 6 months. He became Beverage Assistant Manager of the resort lobby food & beverage outlets in 2000 and shifted over in 2005 to manage the two food & beverage outlets Waves Beach Bar & Grill and beach front restaurant Simply Fish.

Continued on Page B6



Goodwill Ambassadors choose Salt & Pepper

# Salt & Pepper chosen as island favorite

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PALM BEACH - Every year these two families come to visit Aruba for already 21 years! They know Salt & Pepper from the beginning, almost 11 years and never skip one visit when they are on the Island.

"We like Salt & Pepper because it's a cozy restaurant with a great atmosphere and their menu offers something for everybody so it's no problem to come here with our children. They love the burgers, we love the tapas with a good bottle of wine or their homemade Sangria. Unfortunately we're going back to the Netherlands soon but we look forward on coming here again next year. No Aruba without a visit to Salt & Pepper!"

Come and get to know Salt & Pepper Tapas Bar and Restaurant. Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner and a cozy local bar till night... Every night live music on the terrace. Located at Arawak Gardens, in front of Occidental Hotel. Salt & Pepper has the best omelets on the island, don't miss out!





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the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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**PALM BEACH** - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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## Distinguished visitors at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort



**PALM BEACH** — A joyous occasion at Pure Beach, Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, brought together repeat visitors Ronald & Eugenia Olson, from Pennsylvania, who have been coming here for the past 12 years, and Roger & Rosemary Richard from Massachusetts, who have been returning to the island for the past 14 years.



Aruba Tourism Authority, Francis Jacobs. Jacobs ceremoniously awarded the VIP visitors certificates of distinction on behalf of the Minister of Tourism and on behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority in gratitude for their support of the island and loyalty to its people.

Two more repeat visitors James & Patricia di Luca and Jeff & Julie Forman, were honored by Jacobs in abstentia. Lillian Maduro, represented the Divi Phoenix management and arranged for a friendly toast and delicious hors d'oeuvres to mark the festivity. □



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*Widening its network, branching out!*

# Regional office of Fox-IT opens branch on Curaçao



ORANJESTAD - Fighting cyber crime is what Fox-IT is specialized in.

The firm uses its vast knowledge to come up with innovative IT security solutions for a wide array of contemporary problems. After three years on Aruba, Fox-IT has now opened a branch in Curaçao, widening its network. Fox-IT's parent company is based in the Netherlands.

The increasing threat of cyber crime has resulted in a growing demand for IT security, also in the Dutch Antilles. That is why Fox-IT's regional management team on Aruba has decided to open a branch on its sister island. New manager is Maurice Stolzenbach; he works closely together with Eric Eekhof, who is based on Aruba. "Together with our clients, we are aiming for a more secure and safer community,"



explains Maurice Stolzenbach.

In its 10 years of existence, Fox-IT Netherlands has become one of the most specialized companies in IT security. Well respected among its peers, it offers innovative solutions to governments and organizations like ministries, intelligence agencies and police, but also to financial institutions, hospitals and multinationals.

Fox-IT focuses on

innovation in targeting the use or misuse of secure information of its clients. Its core activities include the development of solutions for the safekeeping of state secrets, digital criminal investigation as well as supplying security expertise in the shape of audits, managed security services, consultancy and workshops.

Fox-IT's new office is located in the Waaigat Business Center. □

## Invitation to an OPEN HOUSE

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## Tradition is hot during Christmas time at the Bistro



PALM BEACH - The Taste of Belgium Bistro in the Paseo Herencia Mall is adhering to traditions this year. Its menu encompasses the classic combinations that we all love to eat. The menu items may be ordered separately or as a special menu. If you opt for the menu, you will receive a free glass of champagne. Dinner starts off with a Corn and Shrimp Chowder, filled with delightful corn kernels and fresh shrimp in a creamy, hearty soup. Then follows the traditional Christmas ham, which is accompanied with poached pears, mashed potatoes and gravy. Dessert is walnut cake with vanilla ice cream and whipped cream. Mmmmm. Reservations are not needed at the Bistro, where a 'first come, first serve' policy reigns. □



# BFFs! (beach friends forever): In Aruba you could find 90,000



A small fishing boat and a cruise ship are anchored in the water near downtown Orjanestad -- but the tiny island offers more than the sea for outdoor adventurers. Much of the northern side of the island is wild. (AP PHOTO)

By: Fritz Faerber

ORANJESTAD, Aruba -- I first got a glimpse of Aruba's beauty some 15 years ago, as I looked out the window of a puddle-jumper circling Aruba during a stopover en route to Trinidad. About 32 kilometres long and less than 10 kilometres wide, Aruba is carpeted in some areas with green, scraggly vegetation and a few steep hills, while the north side is rugged, desert-like terrain, peppered with cacti and wild rock formations. White sand rings the south and west shores, and the azure water demands a visit. It doesn't disappoint. The temperature hovers year-round in the high-20s. The water is gorgeous on the southern beaches with their sugary white sand. And Aruba's main source of income is tourism, so visitors are always made to feel welcome. In fact, the Aruba Tourism Authority is

promoting the island with a new campaign: "Aruba -- 90,000 Friends You Haven't Met Yet."

Our group of a dozen friends and family stayed a few kilometres away, right off Eagle Beach in a condo development called Oceania Residences where visitors rent units from owners -- <http://www.arubacondo.com>.

We had to cross a street to get to the beach, but we had unobstructed views of the sea from our rooms.

On the beach, huts provided shade from the intense sun, and it was relatively quiet with few crowds. The water is an intense light blue, but at least close to shore, there isn't much to see for snorkellers.

Huge cruise ships dock daily at Oranjestad and disgorge crowds of passengers to shop or grab a meal in the crowded downtown. A short drive

northwest of Eagle Beach, high-rise hotels and restaurants line crowded Palm Beach. Businesses on the beach rent out sailboats and windsurfers, lead sunset cruises or provide fishing expeditions.

We booked a snorkel and sunset cruise aboard the 13-metre (45-foot) "Ali Kai" catamaran with Marcel's Watersports. We got a three-hour cruise, in which we sailed up toward the northern tip of Aruba to snorkel near Arashi and Malmok Beaches. Schools of fish crowded around as we swam through the clear, warm water. Parrotfish, filefish and sergeant major fish prowled through the water as starfish lurked on the bottom. We cruised back to Palm Beach as the sun set.

But Aruba offers more than the sea for outdoor adventurers. Much of the northern side of the island is wild. In fact, about 20 per cent of the island's 70 square miles lies within park boundaries. The Arikok National Park has biking and hiking trails leading up to views of the rocky north coastline. Check out the unusual rock and cave formations, including natural rock bridges eroded by millennia of waves crashing into and undercutting the rocky coast.

We rented a Jeep and went off-road for a day, tracking the coastline from the northern tip of Aruba to Conchi, or the Natural Pool. While less than 16 kilometres as the crow flies, the trip took many more kilometres negotiating treacherous gullies, dodging boulders and climbing seemingly vertical trails.

After a hot day bouncing around in the back of the Jeep, we were rewarded with a secluded pool of seawater protected from the rough surf by cliffs and rock formations. Big waves hit the rocks and periodically washed into the pool in a strong, yet gentle waterfall. If off-road driving isn't your speed, try one of the tour companies and let a professional negotiate the tricky paths. ABC Aruba Tours in Oranjestad offers a day trip, <http://www.abc-aruba.com/>.

Our group included two



A serene beach scene in Aruba.

young children, so the rugged terrain of the north was out for them. But the Butterfly Farm near the resorts in Palm Beach made up for what they missed. Hundreds of colourful insects flutter about in a large mesh enclosure. You can see 35 species of the creatures in all stages of development, from egg to caterpillar, pupa and finally a butterfly. So take the kids early and often. The Butterfly Farm has locations on other Caribbean islands too, including in St. Martin, St. Thomas and Grand Cayman. It's not unusual to have disappointing food in places with a lot of tourists no matter where in the world you go,

and I must say we had several forgettable meals with our feet in the sand, watching the sunset. But the quality of our meals appeared to be inversely related to our proximity to the beach. At restaurants on Irausquin Boulevard, the views were not as good but the food was much better, including great tapas at Salt & Pepper and good seafood at Fishes & More.

The sand, sea and plenty of other diversions make it a perfect vacation spot for beach-loving families.

If You Go...

Aruba Tourism: <http://www.aruba.com/> or 800-862-7822 ☐



The California Lighthouse rises near the northernmost part of Aruba. (AP)



If you tire of the hotel pool, Eagle Beach beckons. (AP PHOTO)



# Managers Richard Paesch & Hansel Pineda Promoted At Marriott



October 26th 2009. Hansel also began his career with Marriott in 1995 as Night Auditor of the Aruba Marriott Resort. In late 1999, he left the company for a year and restarted his career with Marriott as Assistant Night Audit Manager where he remained until January 2006. He was promoted as Front Desk Manager at Marriott's Ocean Club and in the following year he was appointed Front Office Manager. With his wealth of expertise leading the front office operations and his instrumental role during the renovation of Marriott's Ocean Club, Hansel is a beneficial asset to the Housekeeping department. Hansel started in his new position as Housekeeping Manager on November 11th, 2009. The Aruba Marriott congratulates Richard and

Hansel and wishes them both the best of luck as they take on their new responsibilities. Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. To experience these resorts and learn about special promotions, please visit the new [www.ParadiseByMarriott.com](http://www.ParadiseByMarriott.com). In the pictures: Marriott's Surf Club Housekeeping Manager Richard Paesch together with Assistant Directors of Rooms Jasmin Maduro and Claudia Sanchez Marriott's Ocean Club General Manager Corey Guest and Housekeeping Manager Hansel Pineda

## Continued from Page B1

With many years of knowledge in the food & beverage division and his dynamic personality, Richard took the challenge to move to the rooms division. His new journey started on

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<b>PG-13</b>	<b>2012</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:45		7:45 late show: 11:15
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<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON</b>	daily: 5:45 matinee: 12:00	8:45 3:00	late show: 11:45
<b>G</b>	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG</b>	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15	2:30	late show:
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>2012</b>	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:00		8:00 late show: 11:30
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## Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

# Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at [www.pampamaruba.com](http://www.pampamaruba.com). □



# Students Celebrate the Upcoming Holidays



PALM BEACH – The Colegio Bon Bini school students celebrated the upcoming Christmas holidays at the Grand Caribbean Ballroom, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa with a festive gathering attended by the teaching staff and all kids. The menu, created by executive chef Hector Espinoza, and served by resort managers and banquet staff featured all seasonal favorites including roast turkey, glazed ham and Rugia's home made ayacas. Pictured here the students, celebrating the season, at a most-enjoyable event over delicious food, in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom. □



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*At Tierra Del Sol Country Club*

# Adelma & Burkhardt celebrate their wedding



WEST PUNT – Adelema, from Venezuela and Burkhardt, from Germany, tied the knot at Tierra del Sol at an elegant sunset wedding in the presence of more than 50 international guests. The lovely couple, now living in Germany enjoyed a beautiful blessings ceremony to steel pan music background music, followed by a cocktail reception, and plated gourmet dinner at Ventanas del Mar restaurant, with after dinner dancing. The menu catered by Tierra del Sol's culinary team featured Grouper Fillet with Jumbo Shrimps for entrée and Dutch Apple Pie with Cinnamon Ice Cream for dessert. Pictured here the stunning wedding at Tierra del Sol, as photographed by Luis Mejia. □





# Jesurun says Dutch not doing enough for islands in Kingdom

PHILIPSBURG--Human rights advocate Raymond Jesurun has criticised the Dutch government for legal disparities within the Kingdom that he says violate the rights of Netherlands Antilles and Aruba residents and diminish their quality of life.

Jesurun, a representative of St. Maarten's emerging human rights committee, condemned labour, livelihood and criminal laws that apply only halfway to the Dutch Caribbean, limiting the extent to which the six islands can benefit from equal treatment and social services.

He discussed human rights rules that had been in effect for decades and only recently had been used. "These are the human rights that we have to respect," Jesurun told a small audience gathered at Philipsburg Jubilee Library on Thursday evening.

He was speaking at a lecture for International Human Rights Day about human rights and discrimination in St. Maarten. "It is a guarantee from the Kingdom Government that everyone gets his rights," Jesurun said, referring to the charter that establishes rules for the Dutch Kingdom.

However, Jesurun insisted that benefits like better standards of living from higher salaries

and non-discriminatory legislation still did not exist for the Antilles and Aruba.

He argued that there wasn't enough oversight on law enforcement, although the law provided for prosecution of persons who detain others unlawfully or under harsh conditions. He said that too often crimes went unpunished because no one was watching.

"Again, you don't see these things in the reports, because there are no human rights groups to pick it up and report it," Jesurun said, stressing the importance of preparation before next year's 10-10-10 date for country status.

Quoting examples of discrimination against religious and other minority groups in the Netherlands and assessments of violent and disorderly youth and human trafficking figures for contrast, Jesurun said, "That's Holland; so what about here?"

Former educator Oldine Bryson-Pantophlet, another human rights committee representative, said human rights should be taken seriously leading to the start of a new decade and a new country within the Kingdom. "Human Rights Day exists. It should be recognized in St. Maarten," she said. "We will be preparing ourselves from now for 2010." □

# Public shows little interest in Monument Policy Plan

PHILIPSBURG--The Multi-Annual Monument Policy Plan, which was approved by the Executive Council in August, was presented Thursday to stakeholders, monument owners, and civil servants. The turnout for the presentation by the Directorate of Programs and Project (DPP) of the Island Government in A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall at the Government Administration Building was extremely low and may serve as an example of the apparent lack of interest in the preservation of monuments and the island's cultural heritage.

The Island Government started with the inventory of potential monuments in St. Maarten in 2001, and worked on the legal framework to establish an Island Monument Ordinance. On behalf of the Island Government, Pream Consultants and Architects started drafting the Multi-Annual Monument Policy Plan in 2003, in cooperation with the Department of Urban and Regional Development

Planning and Housing (DROV) in Curaçao, the Department of Spatial Planning and Management VROM, and DPP.

Before handing over copies of the plan, DPP Monuments Programme Manager Loekie Morales underlined the importance of the preservation of monuments. "Monuments are the pearls of our common heritage, wherein not only history and culture lie, but also the time spirit of our ancestors. We have to cherish and preserve our monuments for ourselves and for future generations," she urged.

The policy plan is to provide tools to stop the deterioration and demolition of monuments and to safeguard the preservation of monuments that are at least 50 years old and considered to be of general significance. Monuments may be residences, fortifications, plantations and rural houses, industrial monuments, cemeteries, wells and dry walls, and archaeological sites.

St. Maarten has 22 designated and registered official monuments that have been inscribed in the Public Register of Monuments, as of July. These include Fort Amsterdam, Cul de Sac Cemetery, the Methodist Church and Manse, Guavaberry Emporium, the Courthouse, Union Farm, Foga Salt Factory, Madame Estate Plantation House, and Great Salt Pond.

Under the policy plan, descriptions have been made of 65 potential monuments. Forty of these have been short-listed to be designated by the Executive Council for inclusion in the Monuments Register. Eight owners have filed objections against the designation of their properties and have filed appeals with the Island Council.

The policy plan provides tools to preserve and restore monuments, including subsidies and soft loans for owners, as well as an emergency recovery plan for buildings that need immediate attention. □

# Governors not a must anymore, says VVD

THE HAGUE--The liberal democratic VVD party is questioning the need for a Governor of Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten. Member of Parliament (MP) Johan Remkes, who submitted questions and remarks on behalf of VVD relating to the draft regulations for the Governors of Curaçao and St. Maarten, stated that the party would like to get a solid argument for maintaining an overseas representative of the King, in this case the Queen, in these modern times.

VVD, currently in the opposition benches, said it didn't agree with the argument used by the Council of State that a Governor was necessary because the King couldn't physically execute his/her duties in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. It questioned whether this reasoning was still valid, as "the steamboat as a means of transportation has been replaced by the airplane."

"Why couldn't the King be the head of state of Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten, just like in the Netherlands?" VVD asked if other possibilities had been looked at regarding the function of a representative of the Kingdom Government.

Having analysed the regulations for Governors that had been sent to the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber for approval, VVD also wondered why the Governors of Curaçao and St. Maarten, unlike the one in Aruba, had to be chairpersons of the Councils of Advice of the two countries.

VVD and coalition partner Labour Party PvdA questioned the decision by the Dutch Government to put aside the Council of State's advice to install a small committee which would be indicated as the secretariat of the Kingdom.

The government had stated in the Explanatory Note accompanying the draft regulation for Governors and the advice by the Council of State that it wasn't in favour of establishing such a secretariat to hamper or prevent unnecessary delays in the constitutional reform process.

PvdA sought the opinion of government on a Kingdom secretariat and asked if it was planning to set up this organ in the future. VVD wanted to know why the government hadn't given any concrete reasons for not considering the Council of State's advice.

The largest coalition partner Christian Democratic Party CDA expressed its support for the government's decision not to establish a Kingdom secretariat because doing so was "not opportune" at this time. CDA shared the government's view that changes on the Kingdom level should only relate to the constitutional reform process.

Parties submitted their questions and remarks about the draft regulations for the Governors on Thursday. Members of the Second Chamber's Permanent Committee for Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ will submit their contributions on four other legislation proposals next week Thursday.

These proposals are: the Kingdom Law to amend the Charter in order to dismantle the Country the Netherlands Antilles; the Customs and Excise Law for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba; the Tax Law for the BES islands; and rules regarding the protection of personal data of citizens of the BES islands. □

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## New police forces to have units to tackle cross-border crimes

~ Political Steering Group agrees to 28 areas ~

DAWN BEACH--The new police forces of Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will each have a special crime-fighting unit to tackle organised and cross-border crime. The units will work together.

This is one of the 28 issues the Kingdom Political Steering Group (PSG) agreed to during its marathon final meeting for the year that lasted into the wee hours of Thursday morning. However, the process to vet Curaçao's and St. Maarten's abilities to assume their new statuses remains a sticky point and parties will have to return to the table in February to hammer out this issue (see related story).

Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage, St. Maarten's Leader of Government and Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin and Antillean Justice Minister Magali Jacoba signed off on the agreement around 2:30am Thursday, just before updating the press around 3:00am.

Bijleveld-Schouten and Dutch Minister of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations Guusje ter Horst agreed that the new police forces of Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands would cooperate to fight organised and cross-border crime. The joint police facility is intended to provide operational support. In each of the new forces there will be a special unit for fighting organised and cross-border crime.

This agreement was considered as laying a "solid foundation" for the new entities to be created in the Dutch Caribbean. Parties will hammer out details of how the cooperation will work during their next consultation in February.

It had been decided in previous consultations to extend the already existing and "successful cooperation" of the Kingdom Detective Cooperation Team RST by two years. Only when the police forces and the joint police facility operate adequately can the RST tasks be taken over.

Tough and lengthy

Pointing out that the agreement had been signed on December 10, exactly 10 months before the date that Curaçao and St. Maarten will receive their new constitutional status as Countries in the Kingdom, Marlin said the talks had been "tough" and "lengthy," but parties had managed to see eye-to-eye on most issues.

"One of the issues that St. Maarten had fought hard for, and we are grateful that this has been realised, is a second solicitor general ... who will be based in St. Maarten, so this is one of the issues that we believe stands out," Marlin told Dutch, Curaçolenean and St. Maarten reporters who were on hand to cover the meeting.

Agreement was also reached on continuing the Netherlands Antilles Security Plan until 2012, as well as on Kingdom Laws regarding Police, Justice and Financial Supervision. It was also decided to apply a stricter regimen to the submission and execution of projects. The financing of projects is conducted through the development fund for the Netherlands Antilles USONA.

Other points agreed to were in areas in which parties already had agreements, in the consensus Kingdom Laws. Marlin described the agreements as a "further detailing" of agreements already made.

On the issue of the Joint Central Bank for Curaçao and St. Maarten, Marlin said this process was "on track." The committees representing both islands had finally gotten around the table for two to three meetings and a progress report of these meetings was presented during the PSG.

"We will be cutting it tight, but we are confident that we will meet the deadlines so that not only the legal framework is agreed on and on paper, but ... the actual implementation of that legal framework can begin," he said. □



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*Secretaria de Estado de EE.UU, Hillary Clinton:*

# Vínculos Latinoamérica, Irán son “mala idea”

WASHINGTON (Reuters)

- La secretaria de Estado de Estados Unidos, Hillary Clinton, advirtió el viernes a países latinoamericanos que no se acerquen a Irán y dijo que hacerlo sería una “idea realmente mala” que podría tener consecuencias.

Clinton dijo que Estados Unidos está al tanto de que Irán ha aumentado sus actividades diplomáticas en la región, citando particularmente los casos de Venezuela y Bolivia. “Sólo podemos decir que es una idea realmente mala para los países involucrados”, dijo Clinton durante una reunión informativa del Departamento de Estado sobre las relaciones con Latinoamérica.

“Este es el mayor partidario, promotor y exportador del terrorismo en el mundo de hoy”, expresó. “Si las personas quieren coquetear con Irán, deberían ver qué consecuencias podría haber para ellos. Y esperamos que lo piensen dos veces”, agregó. Presidentes izquierdistas de Latinoamérica, incluyendo al de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez; de Bolivia, Evo Morales; y de Ecuador, Rafael Correa, son encarnizados críticos de la política exterior de Estados Unidos y durante años recientes han forjado cercanos vínculos con Irán, Rusia y



El presidente de Irán, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saluda al mandatario venezolano, Hugo Chávez, en Caracas, 25 nov 2009. La secretaria de Estado de Estados Unidos, Hillary Clinton, advirtió el viernes a países latinoamericanos que no se acerquen a Irán y dijo que hacerlo sería una ‘idea realmente mala’ que podría tener consecuencias. REUTERS/Miraflores Palace/Handout

otros países.

Los comentarios de Clinton estuvieron entre los más enérgicos que haya emitido Washington respecto a las crecientes relaciones entre algunos países latinoamericanos e Irán.

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, y otros líderes occidentales acusan a la república islámica de buscar desarrollar armamento atómico.

“INSTITUCIONES

FUERTES”

Clinton dijo que Washington continuaría expresando sus inquietudes respecto a Venezuela y Nicaragua. Chávez ganó en febrero un referendo que le permite presentarse para la reelección y en Nicaragua la Corte Suprema despejó en octubre el camino para que el mandatario izquierdista Daniel Ortega busque un nuevo período en las elecciones del 2011.

“Me preocupa cómo volvemos al camino en el

que reconocemos que la democracia no es respecto a líderes individuales, sino acerca de instituciones fuertes”, expresó Clinton.

“Buenos líderes van y vienen. Obviamente nosotros hemos tenido nuestra propia experiencia en este país con eso”, dijo Clinton. La funcionaria agregó que Washington también espera ver cambios en Cuba.

“Todos esperamos que en un futuro no muy lejano seamos capaces de ver una Cuba

democrática (...) algo que sería extraordinariamente positivo para nuestro hemisferio”, indicó.

Clinton defendió la reacción de Estados Unidos ante el golpe de Estado en Honduras, diciendo que su país había buscado una “aproximación pragmática, de principios, multilateral” que apuntaba a restaurar la democracia.

La respuesta de Washington al golpe -alentando a la nación a seguir adelante con elecciones anteriormente programadas y respaldando el acuerdo de Tegucigalpa para resolver la crisis- ha tensado sus lazos con países como Brasil y Argentina porque el líder derrocado, Manuel Zelaya, no ha regresado al poder.

Al ser consultada sobre la creciente influencia china en la región, Clinton dijo que su país está instando a gobiernos regionales a estar en alerta.

“No tenemos problemas con que ningún país, como China, se comprometa en actividades económicas, negocios, comercio, con ningún país, en ninguna parte (...) Pero no queremos ver la corrupción que beneficia a las fortunas de unos pocos líderes y mina la sustentabilidad de la economía, el medioambiente y los recursos naturales”, aclaró. □

## Bolivia rechaza “injerencia” de EEUU en su relación con Irán

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El Gobierno boliviano rechazó “enfáticamente” el viernes las declaraciones de la secretaria de Estado de Estados Unidos, Hillary Clinton, que advirtió a países latinoamericanos como Bolivia que “podría haber consecuencias” si se acercaban a Irán.

Clinton dijo el viernes que es “una mala idea” mantener relaciones con la república islámica, a la que calificó como “la mayor partidaria, promotora y exportadora de terrorismo en el mundo”.

“Rechazamos enfáticamente cualquier injerencia o intento de injerencia en asuntos internos de Bolivia”, dijo en conferencia de prensa el vicecanciller boliviano, Hugo Fernández.

Con la asunción de Evo Morales al poder en el

2006, las relaciones diplomáticas de Bolivia e Irán se han estrechado desde la primera visita del presidente iraní, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a La Paz a mediados del 2007.

Hace dos semanas Ahmadinejad realizó una gira por Latinoamérica que incluyó, además de Bolivia, a otras naciones de la región con gobiernos de izquierda, como Brasil y Venezuela.

Estados Unidos y otros países de Occidente acusan a Irán de querer desarrollar armas atómicas de forma encubierta, bajo la apariencia de un programa de energía nuclear civil.

Sin embargo, Teherán ha rechazado todas las acusaciones, declarando que su programa nuclear busca exclusivamente a satisfacer su demanda

interna de energía.

“La secretaria (de Estado, Hillary) Clinton dice que es mala idea tener relaciones con Irán. Y, aparentemente, lo que es mala idea para Estados Unidos debería ser mala idea para todo el mundo. Eso es un error porque ya no estamos en esa época”, opinó Fernández.

“Ese tipo de expresiones tienen que acabarse (...) Si Estados Unidos tiene una indigestión con Irán, no necesariamente los demás tenemos que ir en medio”, agregó. Bolivia expulsó al embajador de Estados Unidos en La Paz en septiembre del 2008, poco antes de hacer lo mismo con la agencia antidrogas DEA, aduciendo razones similares de injerencia política y apoyo a la oposición. □



# Brasil y Perú esperan cerrar pacto energético 2010

LIMA (Reuters) - Brasil y Perú cerrarían un pacto energético recién en marzo del 2010, al no haber logrado el viernes en Lima un acuerdo en torno a la exportación de electricidad al gigantesco mercado brasileño.

El presidente brasileño, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, afirmó tras una reunión con su colega Alan García en Palacio de Gobierno que el pacto debe satisfacer a ambos países, en momentos en que sus economías muestran señales de recuperación tras la crisis financiera mundial.

“Nosotros nos vamos a reunir otra vez en el primer trimestre del año que viene para ver si concluimos el acuerdo de la producción de la energía eléctrica aquí en el Perú para poder atender la demanda interna que tiene Perú y para poder atender la demanda de Brasil”, precisó Lula.

“Necesitamos tener una discusión profunda porque queremos construir una alianza que deje al pueblo de Perú satisfecho y deje al pueblo brasileño satisfecho”, agregó.

Lula llegó la noche del jueves a Perú en su segunda visita oficial al país andino, que ha visto en los últimos años el ingreso de grandes compañías brasileñas en el rubro del petróleo, la energía, la minería e infraestructura.

Brasil ha expresado su interés en construir hasta cinco centrales hidroeléctricas en la selva de Perú, que generarían unos 6.000 megavatios, según el Gobierno peruano.

Esa energía serviría para abastecer la creciente demanda de la mayor economía de Latinoamérica, que en noviembre sufrió de un extenso apagón que durante horas dejó en penumbras a Sao Paulo. □



Imagen de archivo del presidente de Perú, Alan García, en una reunión con su par brasileño, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, en Río de Janeiro, 28 abr 2009 REUTERS/Andina Agency/Archivo

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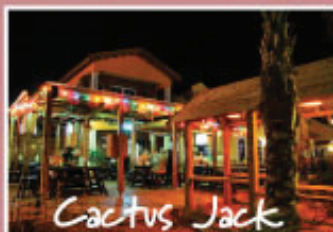


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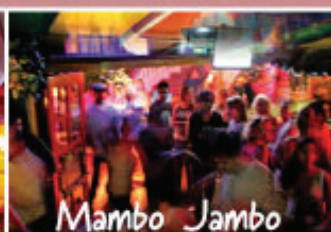
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